



# CES Environmental Services, Inc. Site Proposed Removal Action

Harris County  
Houston, Texas

December 2014

## This Fact Sheet will tell you about...

- Background Information
- Potential Threats to Public Health and Welfare
- Response Action Update
- What to Expect
- For More Information

### Background Information

The CES Environmental Services Inc. (Site) is a former chemical recycling facility that is located at 4904 Griggs Road, Houston, Harris County, Texas. Other contiguous properties associated with the Site are 4900 Griggs Road and 5910 Wayland Street. The Site is surrounded by residential, educational, and commercial properties.

CES Environmental Services filed for bankruptcy in 2010. The property is part of the CES Bankruptcy Estate, which is being managed by a Trustee appointed by the bankruptcy court. The Trustee's job is to liquidate assets of the Estate for the benefit of the creditors.

There are numerous chemical containers located on Site consisting of approximately 11 vacuum boxes, 2 roll-off boxes, 12 frac tanks, 2 tanker trailers, 22 above ground storage tanks (ASTs), 19 wastewater treatment tanks, waste piles, and numerous totes, vats, drums, and smaller containers. These containers contain materials including acids, corrosives, flammables, and specific hazardous wastes including benzene, cresol (phenols), lead, and chromium. These containers have not been actively managed since August 2010.

Two known significant spill incidents occurred in March and July of 2014. The March incident was the result of the theft of on-site equipment including 2 tanker trailers and 7 roll-off boxes. The materials were dumped to the ground, into on-site containment structures, and the equipment was stolen. The July incident is believed to be the result of an intentional opening of a valve, which drained oil and oily water from a tanker trailer used for oil-water separation. Rainfall transported spilled material off site into the residential area south of the facility along Kingsberry Street.

The following entities participated in various spill responses: CES Estate, City of Houston, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), and the EPA.

Although lacking adequate funding, the Trustee continues to address waste issues at the Site in coordination with TCEQ and the EPA. Since September 2014, the bulk of the waste issues on the property were addressed by the EPA and TCEQ.

### Potential Threats to Public Health and Welfare

The major threat to public health and welfare are the numerous chemical containers located on the Site. The chemical odors emanating from the Site are the result of compromised chemical containers containing cresol/phenolic compounds and historic spillage. The odors and potential threats will continue until all waste materials are removed from the Site and properly disposed.

Regulatory agencies recognize that chemical spills occurred on the Site and likely caused both on and off-site contamination. The contamination will require further investigation. Step one in this process is the conduction of a Preliminary Assessment, which was initiated by TCEQ.

### Response Action Update

The Environmental Protection Agency, TCEQ, and the City of Houston, continue to work closely to address the Site's issues. The EPA's response actions on the Site began in late August 2014. The initial steps included sampling the on-site containers to determine chemical composition and possible disposal options. To date, the EPA has sampled and/or received analytical results on almost all of the larger containers.

As of November 21, 2014, the EPA completed the following actions:

- Vacuum/roll-off boxes: 7 of 11 transferred and/or disposed. 2 of 11 disposed of by the Trustee.
- Frac tanks: 3 of 11 disposed.
- ASTs: 3 of 22 disposed. Chemicals removed from 3 AST secondary containments.

- Tanker trailers: 2 of 2 disposed.
- Storm water managed to reduce off-site drainage.
- Lab chemicals consolidated and disposed by Trustee.
- Old chemical products removed and disposed from the Wayland Warehouse by Trustee.
- Debris from stolen roll offs removed and disposed of by Trustee.

Continued actions will include the clean up and disposal of all containers and visually contaminated asphalt/concrete, soil, and debris.

In order to manage on-site contaminated storm water, the EPA and the City of Houston agree to allow active discharge of waste into the City of Houston's sanitary sewer in order to prevent storm water from running offsite into the corner of Wayland/Griggs Road. This action will not completely eliminate runoff from the facility during heavy rain events but will reduce the volume that typically escapes untreated.

The City of Houston is also providing potable water to the EPA for use during cleaning activities on the Site.

Since the response action began in late August 2014, the EPA experienced two theft/vandalism events. The first event was the theft of batteries from a piece of equipment. The second was the vandalism of a project fence blocking Wayland Street. These types of events slow progress. The EPA asks all residents to continue to be vigilant and report suspicious activity by contacting the Houston Police Department.

### **What to Expect During the Next Month and Beyond**

The EPA expects to complete the disposal of all contaminants from vacuum boxes, frac tanks, and ASTs by Spring 2015. Additionally, EPA expects to dewater the pooled areas, pending rainfall, and remove what is believed to be contaminated sediment. Continued sampling of containers is needed in order to meet the appropriate detection limits for contamination.

Please keep in mind that waste cannot be shipped off site for disposal until a disposal facility agrees to accept the waste and schedules it for pickup.

Also, the scope of the current action being taken by the EPA includes the following:

- **The EPA Open House/Information Session**  
December 11, 2014 from 6 to 8 p.m.  
Courthouse Annex E, 5300 Griggs Road, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Houston, Texas 77021

- Removal/disposal of chemicals on the facility.
- Removal/disposal of visible chemical spillage to soil and other surfaces on the facility.

### **For More Information**

If you would like more information about the CES Environmental Services Removal Action, please contact:

#### **Gary Moore, EPA On-Scene Coordinator**

U.S. EPA Region 6

Phone: 214.665.6609 or 1.800.533.3508 (toll-free)

moore.gary@epa.gov

#### **Bill Little, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator**

U.S. EPA Region 6

Phone: 214.665.8131 or 1.800.533.3508 (toll-free)

little.bill@epa.gov

#### **Joan Drammeh, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator**

U.S. EPA Region 6

Phone: 214.665.2151 or 1.800.533.3508 (toll free)

drammeh.joan@epa.gov

#### **Terry Andrews, TCEQ Project Manager**

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Phone: 713.767.3560

terry.andrews@tceq.texas.gov

***All inquiries from the news media should be directed to:  
EPA Region 6 Press Office  
Phone: 214.665.2200***



Region 6  
1445 Ross  
Ave. MSF-